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## **NSWC Port Hueneme Division Volunteers at Local Jr. High School Portfolio Fair**

Volunteers from NSWC Port Hueneme went back to school June 14 to help prepare local schoolchildren for their future careers.

Seven employees volunteered their time for the tenth annual E.O. Green Junior High School Portfolio Fair. The junior high has called upon NSWC Port Hueneme for volunteers for several years, forging a continuing mentorship with the students.

"The people who have been doing this have been doing it for many years, and they really enjoy it," E.O. Green science teacher Geraldine Lamar said of the NSWC Port Hueneme volunteers, a sentiment they themselves echoed.

"It was my pleasure to participate, once again, in the E.O. Green Portfolio Day," said volunteer Tom Butler. Another NSWC Port Hueneme volunteer, Carlos Boisselier, said he too enjoyed himself, and planned to give his time again in the future. Many volunteers also saw giving their time as an opportunity to be a positive role model.

"I volunteered because it's an excellent opportunity to give back to the community on behalf of the command. Kids in middle school are at an impressionable age and portfolio fair provides them with a snapshot of what the 'real' world is like," said NSWC Port Hueneme volunteer Karen Kjos.

For weeks prior to the event, E.O. Green eighth grade students compiled their proudest pieces of schoolwork into a portfolio to be used during interviews with community volunteers. The interviews are designed to prepare the students for future job interviews.

"The portfolios produced by our students represent their best efforts to summarize their educational experience and to present it before a member of the community. For many it is their first experience doing an interview," said E.O. Green Principal Joe M. Lovstedt II.

The NSWC Port Hueneme volunteers, who each worked one of two half-day sessions, met with students one-on-one and asked them questions about their portfolios and their efforts in preparing them. After each interview session, the volunteers completed an evaluation of the student that included positive feedback and recommendations. For many NSWC Port Hueneme volunteers, being able to provide words of encouragement was the most rewarding part of the process.

"I put myself in their position and try to think about their success and how I can help. I see so much potential, and if what I share with them can be the least bit beneficial, it is definitely worthwhile," said Butler.

Kjos said, "In talking with each student, you find opportunities to water their garden, put sunshine where it's needed and possibly plant some seeds. It's very heartwarming. I'm already looking forward to next year."